

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 21 remain pending. In response to the Office Action dated February 15, 2006, claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 have been amended. Care has been taken to avoid the addition of new matter. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 5 through 8, 10, 14 through 17 and 19 stand under objection but have been indicated to be drawn to patentable subject matter.

The Office Action has objected to claim 1 for the presence in the first line thereof of the phrase “-1.” As no such phrase has been found in claim 1, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112. In response, these claims have been amended to incorporate the changes suggested in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Curd, of record. The statement of the rejection differs from the previous application of Curd in that Fig. 1 of the reference has been relied upon. The rejection, however, is still respectfully traversed. Curd does not disclose or suggest a control unit *which switches a current driving capability of the driving unit according to a variation in an amount of current required for the load in a period for applying the bias voltage to the load* as recited in independent claim 1. This position has been asserted in the Appeal Brief filed December 30, 2005. The present Office Action, although parenthetically identifying IN0X and IN1X, presents no explanation of the basis for concluding that these identified signals are dependent upon the amount of current required for the load. A person of ordinary skill in the art, upon consideration of this reference,

would not have found such teaching in the description of Fig. 1 or elsewhere. Withdrawal of the rejection is again solicited.

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited U.S. patent 5,506,541 (Herndon), referring to Fig. 4 and column 6 of the reference. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Herndon disclosure is directed to a bias voltage distribution system. The distribution system provides bias potentials to MOS devices while ensuring devices' operating conditions remain constant over temperature, process, and power supply fluctuations. As described, process control signals PC(0)-PC(3) of Fig. 4 can adjust a reference bias voltage VRRG by selecting the effective size of composite device 199'. See lines 56-67 in column 6. Although the Office Action correlates the circuit generating PC(0)-PC(3) to the control unit" of claim 1, it is unknown from the Herndon disclosure how the PC(0)-PC(3) signals are generated. There is no suggestion or teaching in Herndon that PC(0)-PC(3) are signals that switch "a current driving capability of the driving unit according to a variation in an amount of current required for the load" as required by claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Claims 11, 12, 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Signell, of record, in view of Curd. Claims 11, 13, 18, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Signell in view of Herndon. Independent claims 11 and 20 also contain the above described requirement for a control unit *which switches a current driving capability of the driving unit according to a variation in an amount of current required for the load in a period for applying the bias voltage to the load*. The references, taken individually or in combination, provide no teaching or suggestion of this claimed requirement. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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